

Cullen Park House
(Ben Robert's House)
San Augustine, San Augustine County, Texas

HABS NO. Tex-237

HABS
TEX
203-SAUG
3-

✓
PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District # 6 Tex2

Historic American Buildings Survey
Birdsell P. Briscoe, District Officer
4301 Main Street, Houston, Texas

BEN ROBERTS HOME
San Augustine, San Augustine County, Texas

HABS
TEX., 203
1836, 3-

Owner Frank Youngblood

Date of Erection About 1830

Architect Unknown

Builder Judge E. W. Cullen

Present Condition Good

Number of Stories One story

Other Existing Records Unknown

Materials of Construction Frame-- Greek Colonial-Doric Columns
Ball room in the attic.

Additional Data Sold by Cullen to Mr. J. M. Audry and after the civil war to Benjamin J. Roberts. Elisha Roberts was the father of Ben Roberts. An interesting story is told of Elisha Roberts' coming to this country. It is said that he first came about 1822 or 1823 on the trail of a runaway slave whose wife had been carried to Central Texas by another master and who followed her. On his way, Mr. Roberts remarked the beauty of the spot and resolved that he would one day make his home there. A short time afterward the negro ran away again on a similar errand, and Mr. Roberts following him, found a squatter occupying the spot. Hesitating no longer, he bought out his "improvements" and, going back for his family, moved in and took possession. He was a remarkable man, endowed with rare common sense, a man to whom his friends and neighbors looked for council and advice. He was one of the committee of sixteen who selected the location of the town and also one of the incorporators of the University of San Augustine. He died in 1844.

Apparently, the owner determined that his home would follow the prevailing mode classic or nothing. The result is a Greek Revival gesture that however heavy it may look in a photograph, is actually not without interest. The interiors are good and the house is filled with rare old furniture. The back of the lovely Hepplewhite dining room chair seen in the photograph is an example. The place was built by cultured people of means and has always remained in the best of hands. Prior to the war between the states and later, it was the scene of lavish entertainment and the social life of a century passed through its rooms.

DATA NOT COMPILED AND NOT GUARANTEED
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